Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LILONG 00475 310937Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08
COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W
----------055617 311902Z /46
R 310850Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1749
INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LILONGWE 0475

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MI
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BANDA ANNOUNCES NEW ELECTIONS

REF: LILONGWE A-8

1. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFY THE EXACT DATE, PRESIDENT BANDA INFORMED THE CLOSING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT MARCH 23 THAT NATIONWIDE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED SOMETIME AFTER MID-MAY. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1964 THAT (A) THE ENTIRE ELECTORATE WILL PARTICIPATE IN A NATIONWIDE ELECTION AND (B) AN ELECTION WILL BE CONDUCTED BY SECRET BALLOT. IN 1961, HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN AN ELECTION BY SECRET BALLOT IN WHICH THE ENTIRE ELECTORATE TOOK PART.

2. ACCORDING TO PERMSEC MKANDAWIRE OF MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE USUAL PROCEDURE WILL BE FOLLOWED FOR NOMINATING THREE TO FIVE CANDIDATES FROM EACH CONSTITUTENCY, NAMELY, THAT A COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LILONG 00475 310937Z

LOCAL PARTY OFFICIALS, LOCAL TOWN AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND LOCAL CHIEFS WILL CHOOSE THE THREE TO FIVE CANDIDATES. BANDA'S SPEECH IMPLIES THAT ALL CANDIDATES MUST FIRST BE APPROVED BY HIM, THEN THE VOTERS WILL SELECT ONE FROM THAT GROUP. IN PREVIOUS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (THE LAST WAS 1976), THE THREE TO FIVE NOMINEES WERE SUBMITTED TO BANDA AND

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

HE SELECTED THE WINNER.

3. COMMENT: WE EXPECT THAT THE ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE IN MID-JUNE SINCE BANDA SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT UNTIL AFTER KAMUZU DAY MAY 14 AND THE NEW PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE ITS FIRST SESSION (AS USUAL) IN LATE JULY.

4. BANDA MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE HIS INTER-NATIONAL IMAGE BY HAVING UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE AND A SECRET BALLOT. AT THE CLOSING PARLIAMENTARY BUDGETRY SESSION, HE WAS RATHER GLIB IN REFERRING TO HIS "DICTATORSHIP" AS IT IS REFERRED TO BY NEARBY COUNTRIES. HE IS ALSO DISPLAYING AN ADDED MEASURE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE, WHICH, IN ADDITION TO THE OBVIOUS SELF SATISFACTION VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE AT THIS SESSION, UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS THE COUNTRY'S IMPROVED ECONOMIC SITUATION AS COMPARED TO A YEAR AGO.
STEVENSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LILONG00475
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780140-0690
Format: TEL
From: LILONGWE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978034/aaaaacyv.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3779c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LILONGWE A-8
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3246464
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT BANDA ANNOUNCES NEW ELECTIONS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MI, (BANDA, H KAMUZU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3779c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014